

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

WILLIAM A. RITSCHER, Jr.

at Bloomfield, Essex County, N. J.

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1904.

The Water Question.

The special election at which the people will vote for or against paying \$90,000 for the Orange Water Company's plant in this town will be held on Tuesday, January 19. Thus far but little public interest has been manifested in the question at issue in the approaching election. The Town Council tendered the water company \$90,000 for its plant and the water company accepted the proposition. It is now subject to ratification of the people at the polls. The simple matter of an offer on one hand and the acceptance on the other is not regarded by some people as affording sufficient knowledge for intelligent voting on such an important matter. In order that the matter may be further illuminated and some of its various side issues brought to light, some citizens of the town have made arrangements for a series of public meetings in the several school halls for a general discussion of the water question. These meetings are intended to be solely educational in their purpose. The citizens who have been instrumental in bringing them about represent various shades of opinion on the subject. The first meeting will be held in the Fairview School Hall Monday night. The second in Prospect Street School hall, Wednesday, Tuesday night, and the third in the Centre School hall Wednesday night.

Firemen in Politics.

At the regular monthly meeting of Active Hose Company No. 2 Thursday night a committee of five members was appointed to act with committees from each of the other fire companies. The joint committee will compose a body that will take under consideration "the state of the fire department." According to the utterances of one enthusiastic member of the department, it is said that the movement is one for better fire houses and no man will be supported at the polls in the spring election who is not clearly committed in favor of the erection of new houses. If this movement is joined by the people in the second district of the First Ward who favor a fire house in the Montgomery district, the voting strength of the combination will be considerable. The objection of a firemen issue into the spring campaign will add to the political complications in which that campaign is likely to be involved.

The Fire Alarm System.

The failure of the fire bell at the Truck House to respond to the pull from box No. 37 on Monday morning was due to the extreme cold weather. The fire alarm systems in neighboring towns were all disarranged from the same cause. Superintendent Olsen was kept busy all Sunday night endeavoring to keep the system in working order, but despite his efforts, the intense cold reduced the voltage in the battery room to 18 points. The normal requirements for the proper working of the alarm system is a voltage of 32 points.

At the Sprague Works and the Paper Mill where the intricate parts of the alarm system are protected from intense cold the system worked properly, but in the bell tower there is no such protection, and the exposure there badly affected the striking machinery of the bell.

Empire Theatre.

Mr. Thomas E. Shea and his capable company will begin an engagement at the Empire Theatre, Newark, commencing Monday. Mr. Shea is a favorite here, and a warm welcome is always in store for him. The Repertoire will be "Banished by the King," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "The Belle," "Cardinal Richelieu."

He will produce during his engagement, his great play of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," a play which Mr. Shea will be forced by the public to produce as long as he remains on the stage. On account of the great strain which this character calls forth, he has time and again dropped it from his repertoire, but only to be placed back again at the request of theatre-goers. This play, if once seen is never forgotten, and has given Mr. Shea a national reputation. Matinee Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Sabbatarian Efforts in Caldwell.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

Sir: It appears that Mr. John Espy of Caldwell occasionally turns from the

boiler plate advertisements to gaze over the communications in your valuable journal, and he has found my feeble protest against the prudery which tears from the billboards and barns of his town the pictures of actresses, and against the Puritanism which deprives a woman of the privilege of selling hot coffee to the cold and hungry motormen. The ladies of Caldwell must have little faith in the virtue of the men of that delightful retreat for the vicims of judicial prejudice, consumptives, and others, if they fear the effect upon their morals of highly colored representations of short-skirted girls. I am called credulous by Mr. Espy, but wherein he does not say, and he does not deny the essential truthfulness of the New York Press item. He admits the state of affairs against which I wrote, and his allegation of credulity is therefore pointless. It may be that I am credulous in some things; for instance, in thinking that clergymen who would deprive a man of a cup of hot coffee on a cold day because that day is Sunday are capable of reformation, but I am not sufficiently credulous to permit them to convince me that a "holy" Sunday—the Venerable Day of the Sun—is more than the creation of men, or that it has any divine sanction.

I am also accused of a suspected fondness for short-skirted actresses. I plead guilty. I am fond of all girls in whom the milk of human kindness has not been soured by a Puritanism which would let a man freeze on Sunday and a prudery which refuses a theatre the privilege of advertising its plays. Thousands of people nightly look at the short-skirted personages themselves; and if they do that and preserve their morals intact I fail to see how a daub of printer's ink can rob them of their virtue.

Mr. Espy thinks I ought to urge a holiday for the motormen on Sundays instead of asking that they should have the privilege of procuring something to eat on that day. If Mr. Espy thinks that the world's commerce, activities and travel are to be suspended on Sundays in deference to the antiquated notions of Sabbatarians, he is the credulous party instead of myself. Back-number towns even in New Jersey will have to move up and keep along with the procession. The CITIZEN's plea for the suppression of Sunday trolley traffic through Bloomfield passed unheeded, and I do not think that Caldwell will be left without street railway facilities to please a few mistaken people. I am acquainted with a few persons in the town who are not Sabbatarians. It will be better to treat the motormen and conductors kindly, and assist them in suppressing rowdiness on the line, than to make them the enemies of the town by cutting off their supplies. If Caldwell does not desire to be subject to ridicule from the worldly it should not make itself ridiculous.

I am fond of quoting the words and example of Jesus, because if the Bible is plenary inspired, and so of course inerrant, there can be no question that Saturday is our Sabbath and Sunday a human invention. To call Sunday the Sabbath is erroneous. There is no divine authority for it at all, and no human authority for it the other side of Constantine. He selected the day because it was already a sacred day for his people, and for the political reason that they could be more easily induced to observe it than any other day. But he expressly exempted rural communities like Caldwell from observing it. Mr. Espy appears to have done me the honor to read my communications to the CITIZEN, and therefore he knows that I have frequently pointed out that the early Christians worshipped on various days, the Jewish converts retaining the Saturday Sabbath and others selecting the days most convenient. The only reason for finally settling upon Sunday is, as every theologian worth quoting knows, that tradition ascribed the resurrection to that day, which alleged circumstance is thought to have peculiarly hallowed it. This, however, is only a human thought, and, like all human thoughts, subject to modification and change. We of America are indebted for our Sunday to the Scotch Covenanters and English Puritans, whose notions were imported by our ancestors. It is a debt for which we owe them a grudge. The founders of Protestantism denounced Sabbatarianism and the Sabbatarians roundly. The Catholics show more common sense on the subject than some of the Protestants, though for political and business reasons they are now availing themselves of the Sunday superstition to improve their standing in the community.

It grieves me that Mr. Espy should think that I hold the clergy in scorn. I feel nothing but sorrow for the poor and hardworking country clergyman, for he knows nothing but what he was taught in a theological school, where "pebbles are polished and diamonds dimmed," as the greatest of last century's preachers said. And in no theological school will one learn the truth about Sunday; and that is why I am trespassing upon the space of the CITIZEN to suggest that humane ministers should look into the subject before they inflict their school taught narrowness upon the communities in which they live. I am not at all fearful that I shall be deprived of the privilege of visiting Caldwell by trolley on Sundays. The

commercial spirit of the time is too strong for that. Mammon is on the side of righteousness, and the worship of the almighty dollar offsets the worship of the Venerable Day of the Sun.

I often quote Jesus, too, to show that the Master of all Christians regarded the Sabbath as a day for man, an institution for the benefit and use of man, and not for superstitious prostration, and I challenge any Christian to show any authority for regarding it otherwise. Mr. Espy says that the clergy have done a great deal for the cause of Christ, and implies that they should therefore control Sunday. This I dispute. The clergy have done much for themselves and the profession, but if the cause of Christ is the cause of humanity—a proposition from which they are not so likely to dissent as I am—they have hindered it, rather than helped it, by their unnaturalism, their Sunday laws, their autos-da-fes, their inquisitions, their witch hangings and burnings, their tortures of heretics, their rejection of scientific discoveries, and opposition to human progress. The pages of history are red with the crimes against humanity of the two great Christian sects, and the glare of the fires they built to consume nonconformists to creeds has hardly faded from the sky of the Western world. The last auto-da-fé was no longer ago than 1826.

I make no apology for criticising the public acts of any one. Whatever, said Terence, concerns the welfare of man is not foreign to me. I have a friend in New York who visits me occasionally. When he buys his ticket he asks for a pasteboard to Glen Ridge and escape. If the Sabbatarians could have their way in Caldwell I should dislike to move over to that town, notwithstanding its many superlative advantages in the way of retreats and health resorts. Escape would be too difficult.

Very truly yours,

E. M. MACDONALD.

One of the interesting theatrical events of the season in Newark will be the appearance of Miss Blanche Bates in "The Darling of the Gods" at the Newark Theatre, Monday evening, January 11, for the benefit of the Newark Orphan Asylum. Many society people are interested in the asylum and the evening will therefore be an auspicious occasion. The Auxiliary, who have the benefit in charge, are composed of twenty young ladies, all well known and popular.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE Bloomfield Trust Company of Bloomfield, N. J., at the close of business December 31, 1903.

RESOURCES	
Bonds and mortgages	\$125,800 00
Time loans on collaterals	420,500 00
Demand loans on collaterals	29,228 94
Notes and bills purchased	122,304 66
Due from banks, etc.	104,138 01
Cash on hand	14,960 13
Checks and cash items	3,464 92
	\$824,325 66

LIABILITIES	
Capital stock paid in	\$100,000 00
Surplus fund	20,000 00
Undivided profits (net)	10,842 41
Time deposits	333,997 29
Demand deposits	297,731 76
Demand certificates of deposit	3,968 56
Due to Banks, etc.	18,600 64
	\$824,325 66

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF ESSEX, ss.
JOHN SHERMAN, Vice-President, and JOSEPH H. DODD, Treasurer, of the above named company, being severally duly sworn, each for himself depose and say that the foregoing statement is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

JOHN SHERMAN, Vice-President.
JOSEPH H. DODD, Treasurer.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January, A. D. 1904.

NATHAN RUSSELL,
Notary Public.

Correct—Attest:
ROBERT M. ROYD, JR.,
WM. R. BROUGHTON,
EDWIN M. WARD,
Directors.



Coal for All Purposes.

If you will tell us your requirements we will send Coal to fill the bill exactly. Old Pennsylvania Co's Pittsburgh at \$6.25.

THE COAL WE SELL.

Cannel Coal	\$14.00
Hickory Wood	12.00
Oak Wood	10.00
Kindling Wood, Hay, Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.	

Bloomfield Coal and Supply Co.

324 Glenwood Avenue.

Telephone, Bloomfield 134.

Miss Cornelia D. Milner.

INSTRUCTOR
IN MUSIC : : :

Dealer in Pianos and Organs

Resident Agent for the Oldest Piano Houses in New York City.

259 Walnut St., Bloomfield, N. J.

Some Weather Records.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

Sir: The conventional "oldest inhabitant," who invariably makes his appearance through the medium of his recollections on the occasion of any weather manifestation, dry or wet, hot or cold, out of the ordinary, has been dragged out again during the past week, and has been made to say that Tuesday morning's mercury record was below any yet made in that direction within his aged and ancient experience. The "old man's" memory is in need of burrowing, as the following record will demonstrate:

On January 30, 1873, at six o'clock in the morning, the thermometer at J. W. Baldwin & Bro.'s store recorded 22 degrees below zero. At twelve o'clock, noon, on that same date, the thermometer recorded 60 degrees above zero—a change of 82 degrees between the morning and the noon record. It is strange that the "oldest inhabitant's" memory should fail to recall such a marvelous weather caprice as that.

On January 13, 1866, at seven o'clock in the morning, the thermometer recorded eleven degrees below zero here in Bloomfield.

MORRIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

A Slight Fire.

The frame dwelling house No. 325 Franklin street, owned by Wm. R. Raab and occupied by Frank Deyer, was damaged by fire Tuesday morning. The damage to the building from the flames and to the household furniture from water resulted in a loss estimated at between \$200 and \$300. An alarm was sent in from box 37, but only resulted in a partial working of the fire alarm system. The whistles at the Sprague Electrical Works and the Diamond Paper Mill sounded the alarm, but the bell at the Centre did not ring the number of the box, and Essex Truck Company and Phoenix Hose Company did not respond to the alarm. Active Hose Company was promptly at the scene of the fire with a large force of men, notwithstanding it was zero weather. Excelsior Hose Company came to the Centre, as the fire rules require. A number of members of Phoenix Hose Company ran to the fire and did fire duty there, as also did Chas. Harrington of the truck company.

A Question of Precedence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

Sir: Which of the two proposed bond issues ought to have right of way, the one actually needed for new fire houses or the one thought to be needed for the purchase of a water plant. If the question asked depended upon the relative importance to the people of the two matters, there is no question but what fire houses ought to have right of way. The safety of life and property depend upon the fire department, and self-preservation is always the first consideration. The fire house matter has been sidetracked by the Town Council to make way for the purchase of a water plant. Those who have been instrumental in doing this should remember that the firemen have votes and that these votes will be needed to carry the election in favor of the purchase of the water plant. Some of the members of the Council will find that the firemen are not so easily shelved. OBSERVER.

BY 9

Chas. M. Becker & Bros.

Orange, East Orange South Orange Montclair

BREAKFAST FOODS.

THE Cereal Products sold by us are the very best in every respect, and are always fresh. We make a specialty of these goods and handle all brands. We strongly recommend

TRU FOOD A READY-TO-EAT FLAKE WHEAT.

It is a new food, combining the nourishing properties of predigested pure grain into a dietary delicacy equally adapted to the needs of persons of all ages and conditions of health.

TRU FOOD was designed by food experts to meet the demands of a patronage that is satisfied only with the best the market affords.

TRU FOOD is specially prepared from choice western wheat scientifically processed, formed and baked under a new formula, combining the most advanced principles of the food makers' art.

Per large package 12c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.

Prepared Buckwheat in 3 and 6 lb. packages.

PURE MAPLE SYRUP

In quart bottles and full 1/2 gallon and gallon cans; per bottle, 30c; 1/2 gallon cans, 60c; gallon can, \$1.00.

MAPLE SUGAR IN 1 POUND CAKES.

HONEY—Strained and in the Comb.

Comb Honey in boxes, per box, 22c; Strained and comb honey in bottles.

FREE DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

Basket-Ball.

The basket-ball team of the Bloomfield Field Club visited Red Bank Wednesday night and met with defeat at the hands of the St. James five of that place. The score was 14 to 10. Bloomfield was represented by Tim Johnson, T. O. Maxfield, John Maxfield, G. Burton and Chester Hague. Burton made three baskets, J. Maxfield one and Hague one.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Catholic Lyceum has elected officers as follows: President, Winifred Hickory; Vice-President, Gertrude O'Hair; Recording Secretary, Margaret Larkin; Financial Secretary, Mary Glendon; Directors, Elizabeth Neary and Margaret Glendon.

Park M. E. Church.

Dr. C. S. Woodruff will preach in the Park M. E. Church to-morrow at both services. Morning topic, "Holy Ghost Power," evening, "A New Year's Gift." The address of Frank D. Gamewell, D. D., in the First Presbyterian Church Thursday evening, was most thrilling, and the large audience present will not soon forget it. He gave an account of the siege of Peking during the Boxer movement.

The last of the series of union services for the Week of Prayer will be held this evening in the Park M. E. Church. Dr. Woodruff will have charge of the meeting.

BLOOMFIELD Savings Institution,

Office: 7 Broad Street,

Bloomfield, N. J.

SURPLUS, - - \$67,477.18

NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Interest Dividends Declared Jan. 1st and July 1st.

